

REMARKSCLAIM STATUS

Claims 1-18 are pending and stand rejected, of which claims 1 and 9 are independent. Claims 1 and 2 are herein amended and new claims 19 and 20 have been added. Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by the claim amendments or additions presented herein.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 2 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention due to lack of antecedent basis for the limitation “the laser beam illumination state”. Claim 2 has been amended to be independent in form. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome or otherwise rendered moot by the amendments made to claim 2 and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 103

Claims 1, 2, 7, 8 and 16 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Kishida et al. (USP 5,844,658; “Kishida”). Claims 5, 6, 17 and 18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kishida and claims 3, 4 and 9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kishida in view of Aizu et al. (USP 4,952,050; “Aizu”).

Claims 6 and 8 have been canceled rendering the rejection as to these claims moot. With respect to the rejection of the remaining claims, applicants comment as follows.

Kishida discloses auto tracking with respect to the eye fundus blood flow meter, in which the display screen for the eye fundus image is changed in accordance with the tracking state.

However, at least the feature included e.g., in independent claim 1 or 2 in which the display state of the measurement data and eye fundus image displayed on the display means is changed in accordance with the measurement state or laser illumination state, is not shown or taught in the reference. In addition, the reference also fails to show the feature of independent claim 9 of display information control means for changing the display position and display zooming ratio of the displayed image in accordance with the beam position detected by the beam position detection means.

Furthermore, while Aizu discloses an arrangement for controlling the position at which the measurement beam is illuminated, the foregoing features of claims 1, 2, and 9 are not shown or suggested.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention as recited in independent claims 1, 2 and 9, and the claims depending therefrom including new claims 19 and 20, are not taught or suggested by, and therefore neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious in view of, Kishida or Aizu, taken individually or in combination.

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that the dependent claims are also allowable for at least similar reasons as stated for the independent claims from which they depend. Applicants however, reserve the right to address any individual rejections of the dependent claims should such be necessary or appropriate.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claims as herein presented are allowable over the prior art of record, taken alone or in combination, and that the respective rejections be withdrawn. Applicants further submit that the application is hereby placed in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

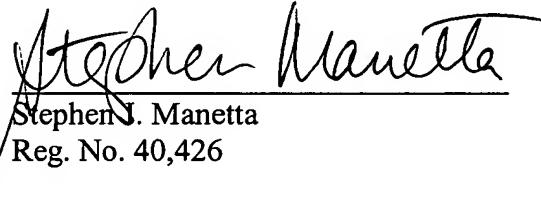
Applicants believe no fee nor extension of time is required for this filing. However, should an extension of time be necessary to render this filing timely, such extension is hereby petitioned and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this paper, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4826.

In the event that a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,
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By:


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